

**Children's Dance Books**  
**Sixty Annotated Bibliographies**

Created by  
Marilyn Berrett and Jim Jacobs

Listed Alphabetically by Author Last Name:

---

Ancona, George. **Let's Dance.** Morrow, 1998.

Grades: K-4                      Dance; Folk dancing

*This simple text with photographs describes various dances from all over the world. The photographs are strong and diverse, showing amateurs and professionals dancing.*

---

Anderson, Joan. Ancona, George (illustrator). **Twins on Toes.** Picture book Studio, 1988.

Grades: 3-7+                      Ballerinas, Twins, Ballet dancing

*Describes the experiences of identical twins, Amy and Laurel Foster, who studied at the School of American Ballet for ten years to become professional dancers. Both signed contracts with the Miami City Ballet after their training. Uses very good dance-specific terminology.*

---

Anholt, Laurence. **Degas and the Little Dancer: A Story About Edward Degas.** Barron's, 1996.

Grades: 3-6                      Edward Degas; Ballet

*Because Marie helps her poor parents by modeling for an ill-tempered artist, she becomes a famous ballerina but not in the way she had dreamed. A museum guard explains this history of Degas' famous ballerina sculpture. An appealing book despite minimal movement-specific language. The setting is authentic, i.e. a studio, a barre, theatre, etc. Illustrations show more about dance than text says.*

---

Bornstein, Ruth. **The Dancing Man.** Clarion, 1978.

Grades: 3-4                      Dancing

*Wearing his pair of special silver shoes, young Joseph sets to dance with the world. The book's language often suggests movement through metaphoric comparison. The story within the story about Joseph's sense of mission, although predictable, captures the essence of what dancers need to survive: passion from within. While the text does not specifically describe dance movement, the metaphors and sparse words invoke a sense of motion in the reader.*

---

Brighton, Catherine. **Nijinsky.** Doubleday, 1989.

Grades: K-4                      Nijinsky; Ballet dancers

*Describes how the renowned Russian ballet dancer found an outlet for his childhood unhappiness through dance and was eventually called to perform for the Tsar. Some dance facts are woven into Vaslov's family life and relationships. Dance terms are simple but clear. Russian culture is shown strongly in illustrations.*

---

Brimmer, Larry Dance. Girouard, Patrick (illustrator). **Dinosaurs Dance.** (Rookie Reader Series) Children's Press, 1998.

Grades: Pre-school – 2                      Dinosaurs, Dance; Stories in rhyme

*“Though other animals may twirl and prance, there is nothing like a dinosaur dance.” The simple text; two words per page, prompts a kinesthetic response in the reader. The action words and energy are great especially for young children.*

---

Bussel, Darcey. Linton, Patricia (illustrator). **The Young Dancer.** Dorling Kindersley 1994.

Grades: All                                      Ballet Dancing

*Shows life of a professional dancer and her daily experiences and gives an overview of ballet. Advises how to improve technique. Gives information on ballet companies. Scope and accuracy of text and photographs make this unique in ballet genre.*

---

Butterworth, Emma Macalik. **As the Waltz was Ending.** Four Winds Press 1982.

Grades: 5-6, 7+                              Personal Narrative

*An autobiographical account of a young girl whose ballet career with the Vienna State Opera was interrupted by the invasion of the Nazis and who later had to fight for her life during the Russian occupation. The first half is all about dance. The second half focuses on WWII. Many dance and war details peppered throughout the book. Contains powerful and awful accounts of Emmy's efforts to keep training during the war's devastation.*

---

Carle, Eric. From Head to Toe. HarperCollins 1997.

Grades: Pre-S; K-2                              Exercise, Physical Fitness

*Encourages the reader to exercise by following the movements of various animals: presented in a question and answer form. A book that presents a thorough body of warm-up with movement-inviting, delightful illustrations and great movement language.*

---

Clarke, Mary. Spatt, Leslie E. (illustrator). **Antionette Sibley.** Dance Books 1981.

Grades: All

*Photographic history of Sibley's dancing career with brief introductory text. The rest of the book is photographs without comment. The black and white photographs are exquisite. They capture Sibley's great ballets and Sibley's range of drama and skill. Traces development of her maturing abilities. In early shots she isn't as expressive as in the latter part of her career.*

---

Daly, Niki. **Papa Lucky's Shadow.** Macmillan 1992.

Grades: 3-4; 5-6                              Dancing

*With his granddaughter's help, Papa Lucky takes his love of dancing onto the street and makes some extra money. There is an excellent sense of motion in the illustrations. Dance terms are accurate and specific. There is a believable family conflict.*

---

de Paola, Tomie. **Oliver Button Is a Sissy**. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich 1979.

Grades: K-2; 3-4                      Dancing, Sex Role

*His classmates taunt Oliver Button, but this does not stop him from what he likes best. Dancing merit lies in its honest depiction of facing real issues; attitudes that boys who dance are sissies. The main character doesn't always win but he can still preserve character and integrity. Encourages risk-taking.*

---

Dominy, Jeanine. **Katherine Dunham**. Chelsea House Publishers 1992.

Grades: 5-6; 7+                      Katherine Dunham, Dancers, Choreographers, Afro-Americans

*Studies the life and achievements of the black American dancer and choreographer. Descriptive details of Dunham's life and contributions; factual and appealing.*

---

Duvall, Jill D. Duvall, Lili (illustrator). **Meet Rory Hohenstein, A Professional Dancer**. Children's Press 1997.

Grades: K-2; 3-4                      Hohenstein, Dancers, Occupations

*Describes the life of a teenage boy training in ballet and shows how his practice and hard work pay off during a performance at the Kirov Academy in Washington D.C. Compelling view of teacher coaching accuracy and intensity in correcting alignment and form. The teacher obviously has been a professional. The stretch with mother holding son in traction is potentially very dangerous but many in ballet consider these kinds of stretches necessary for the ballet esthetic.*

---

Edwards, Richard. Anstey, Caroline (illustrator). **Moles Can Dance**. Candlewick Press 1994.

Grades: K-2; 3-4                      Moles, Animals, Dancing

*Despite being told by the other animals that moles cannot dance, a mole persists in trying and proves them wrong. A common "gotta dance" tale.*

---

Garfunkel, Trudy. Letter to the World: The Life and Dances of Martha Graham. Little, Brown 1995.

Grades: 5-6

*Story of Martha Graham illustrated with many famous black-and-white photographs and some lesser known. The photographs alone make this a must-read.*

---

Gauch, Patricia Lee. Ichikawa, Satomi (illustrator). **Dance, Tanya**. Philomel Books 1989.

Grades: K-2                              Ballet Dancing

*Tanya loves ballet dancing, repeating the moves she sees her older sister using when practicing for class or a recital, and soon Tanya is big enough to go to ballet class herself. Illustrations and text often capture childlike dance movement, especially how little girls make up their own dances. Older sister looks too young to be on pointe.*

---

Gherman, Beverly. **Agnes Demille: Dancing off the Earth**. Macmillan Publishing 1990.

Grades: 5-6; 7+                      Agnes deMille, dancers, Choreographers

*The life and accomplishments of the choreographer, dancer, and author best known for the ballets she created on American themes and for the choreography of the musical Oklahoma. Historically significant musical theatre and ballet dance figure.*

---

Grau, Andree. Various (illustrators). Dance (Eyewitness Books). DK Books 1998.

Grades: 5-6, 7+                      Dance; Cross Cultural studies; folk dancing; dance costume and production  
*Surveys forms of dance throughout the world, discussing its cultural and social significance; its costumes, its history, and noted dancers and choreographers. Scope is marvelous; presentation almost cluttered. Sometimes the focus is on the obscure, like the limitation of makeup to a few ethnic styles without mentioning traditional approaches. Although in picture book format, the writing generally is not accessible below fourth grade.*

---

Hazen, Barbara Shook. Sneed, Brad (illustrator). **Turkey in the Straw**. Dial Books 1993.

Grades: K-2; 3-4                      Fiddling, Farm life, Square dancing

*When things are looking bad, a farmer who would rather fiddle than do his chores invites his neighbors to a hoedown where he plays such a lively tune that his shy daughter's pet turkey starts dancing, with happy results. Illustrations full of energy and movement, but the story is more about coming-of-age than dance. Dance served as a catalyst to advance the plot.*

---

Hillinshead, Marilyn. Morgan, Pierr (illustrator). **The Nine Days Wonder**. Philomel Books 1994.

Grades: K-2; 3-4                      Dancing, England

*Will Kemp, the merriest dancer in England, boasts that he can dance from London to Norwich in ten days. A strong part of the appeal is that Will kemp really lived, really danced the 117 miles from London to Norwich in 1601, and kept an account of the event in his diary which still survives. The dancing is spontaneous, delightful, and captures a time and place in history of dance addressed by few other books. While not mentioned in the text, the illustrations show Will doing what could be Morris Dancing or even Danceomania spontaneous, wild dancing which affected entire groups of people).*

---

Isadora, Rachel. **Max**. Macmillan 1976.

Grades: K-2; 3-4                      Dancing, baseball

*Max finds a new way to warm up for his Saturday baseball game – his sister's dancing class. A trained girl practices ballet while her untrained brother attempts to copy the same movements. Illustrations filled with*

action and accuracy of movement. Makes connections between dance and athletics; ballet helps max be a better baseball player.

---

Isadora, Rachel. **Isadora Dances**. Viking 1998.

Grades: K-2; 3-4

Isadora Duncan; Dancers – United States; Biography; Dancers – women

*A brief biography of the woman whose unique style of dance was not readily accepted by audiences at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is a historically significant and accurate biography about the mother of modern dance. The artist reproduced old line drawings and photographs of Isadora Duncan, giving them new life and energy.*

---

Isadora, Rachel. **Lili at Ballet**. Putnam 1993.

Grades: K-2; 3-4

Ballet dancing

*Lili dreams of becoming a ballerina and goes to her ballet lessons four afternoons a week. Shows age appropriate training for the young child. Illustrations and terminology are both strong. The famous roles for some of history's best ballets adds strength. Few but well-chosen words and pictures capture the essence of a good ballet training for the young, serious dancer. Some illustrations show incorrect alignment; others depict alignment correctly. Shows young girl being captured by magic of ballet.*

---

Krementz, Jill. **A Very Young Dancer**. Alfred A. Knopf 1976.

Grades: All

*An overview of a ballet season focusing upon a ten-year-old girl who trains and auditions for the New York City Ballet Nutcracker and is cast in the coveted role of Mary. Gives insight into the rigor, discipline and subculture of children who are trained in elitist professional ballet. Detailed, thorough, and fresh despite the books age.*

---

LaPrise, Larry & Macak, Charles P., & Baker, Taftt. **The Hokey Pokey**. Simon & Schuster Books 1950.

Grades: K-2

*A lively group of people and animals dances to the lyrics and music of this popular novelty tune. While the text is complete lyrics of the song, the illustrations give energy and interesting perspective to the Hokey Pokey. The number of people grows with each page, as actually happens when the dance is performed, until the final pages when hordes participate. Promotes the idea that dance is for everyone and inspires people to move with commitment and liveliness, even in such a common dance.*

---

Lee, Jeanne M. **Silent Lotus**. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux 1991.

Grades: K-2

*A young girl who does not learn to speak develops dancing talents that eventually land her in the king's court. Unique quality of the training and culture of Cambodian dance captured in text illustrations. Yet illustrations merit a little low.*

---

Levine, Ellen. **Anna Pavlova: Genius of the Dance**. Scholastic 1995.

Grades: 5-6; 7+

*Complete biography of Anna Pavlova, considered to be the greatest ballerina of all time. Compelling and significant to both the world of dance and world history. Social studies and history connections excellent. Included accounts of Bloody Sunday, attacks on Russian Jews, and the political climate in Russia at the turn of the century. Clear vision of the philosophy of the Imperial Ballet School. Compelling descriptions of the feelings of this young ballerina..*

---

Lewis, Ferguson, Julinda. **Alvin Ailey, Jr.: A Life in Dance.** Walker & Company 1994.

Grades: 5-6, 7+

*Gives background and details of Alvin Ailey's life and unique contributions to dance/black dance in America. Great reading for dancers. MB recommends for her college students. Not as exciting for children, yet deals with black performers issues in America in a significant way.*

---

Loredo, Elizabeth. **Boogie Bones.** Putnam 1997.

Grades: K-2; 3-4

*Boogie Bones, a skeleton who loves to dance, disguises himself as a living person and leaves his graveyard home to enter a dance contest. Dance integral to the story. A variety of ballroom styles accurately depicted in the lively illustrations and appealing text. A feel-good dance book. Text specific and humorous.*

---

Lowery, Linda. **Twist with a Burger, Jitter with a Bug.** Houghton Mifflin Company 1995.

Grades: Pres-S; K-2

*Illustrations and rhyming text provide a humorous look at all kinds of dancing. Concept book with no plot, but the fresh illustration and cadence capture the reader. Uses dance as a vehicle to unify the catchy language, jump-rope-like rhythm, and active illustrations.*

---

Marshall, James. **The Cut-ups Carry On.** Penguin Group 1990.

Grades: Pre-S; K-2

*Spud and Joe are forced by their mothers to take ballroom dancing lessons and scheme to win the final class contest. Wacky antics of the cut-ups are fresh and interesting. Dance realism merit in the depiction of how boys respond to dance lessons and how their attitudes change when they actually become involved in a dance competition.*

---

Martin, Bill Jr. and John Archambault. **Barn Dance.** Henry Holt 1986.

Grades: K-2

*Unable to sleep on the night of a full moon, a young boy follows the sound of music across the fields and finds an unusual barn dance in progress. Largely catchy rhythm. Illustrations varied and appealing,*

*particularly the glow of the moon. Action oriented illustrations and energetic language help set the scene and give a feeling of folksy barnyard dancing.*

---

Martin, Nora. **The Stone Dancers**. Atheneum 1995.

Grades: 3-4

*A young girl uses an old legend about Stone Dancers to teach her mountain village a lesson about hospitality and sharing. Dance weaves in and out of the story in two different lenses. Dance is in the metaphor of how she perceives the world, in the legend, and they actually dance.*

---

Mathers, Petra. **Sophie and Lou**. Harper Collins Publishers 1991.

Grades: K-2

*Shy Sophie, enticed by the dancing that she sees in the studio across the street, sets out to learn on her own. Some good ballroom specifics; foot patterns on floor; specific posturing in dance position; etc. The inviting lure of dance draws both Sophie and the reader into this simple but satisfying story.*

---

Maze, Stephanie and Catherine O'Neill Grace. **I Want to be a Dancer**. Harcourt Brace 1997.

Grades: 3-4; 5-6; 7+

*Provides an overview of the many types of dance that exist and describes what is involved in becoming a dancer. Admirable scope. Excellent photographs. Glossary illustrated. Layout fresh and interesting.*

---

Medearis, Angela & Michael R.. **Dance**. Twenty-First Century Books

Grades: 5-6; 7+

*Explores the dance traditions of African Americans, from their origins in the expressive dances that the slaves brought from Africa through the development of jazz and tap to modern dance and ballet. Thorough research. An insightful presentation of the evolution of African American dance.*

---

Mott, Evelyn Clarke. **Dancing Rainbows**. Cobblehill Books 1996.

Grades: 3-4; 5-6

*A young Tewa Indian boy and his grandfather prepare to take part in their tribe's feast which will include the special Tewa dance. Includes culture as well as dance. Some photographs stunning, particularly the ones of the Eagle Dance. Photos and costumes show traditions. Dance itself is a part of the story but not the focus.*

---

O'Conner, Barbara. **Barefoot Dancer: The Story of Isadora Duncan**. Carolrhoda Books 1994.

Grades: 5-6; 7+

*Describes the life of the modern dancer who created a spontaneous, free-form dance style accompanied by literary readings and non-dance music. A solid biography about the "Mother of modern dance," who's lifestyle and dancing was often controversial. She led a crazy, unorthodox life. Her ideas about dance and life make this a juicy read, but it is toned down enough for young reader.*

---

Oxenbury, Helen. **The Dancing Class**. Dial 1984.

Grades: Pre-S; K-2

*A small child's first ballet class in nearly a disaster. Captures the feel of a little commercial dance studio and the young children who come to dance in their baggy tights. Not a lot about dance but honest charm with real human appeal. The illustrations capture the unwritten truths of beginning dance classes, like the stereotypical pianist and the little boy who kicks the one in front of him.*

---

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. **Alvin Ailey**. Hyperion Books 1993.

Grades: 3-4; 5-6

*Describes the life, dancing, and choreography of Alvin Ailey, who created his own modern dance company to explore the black experience. One of the historical significant books that really appeals to the younger child. Captures his energy and devotion to dance. Text and illustrations have potential to bring about new understandings about dancing and dancers in all audiences.*

---

Prior, Natalie. **Dance Crazy: Star Turns from Ballet to Belly Dancing**. Allen and Unwin 1995.

Grades: 5-6; 7+

*Predominately about history of ballet in australia, specifically in Queensland. Collection of dance-related informational topics, such as dancing footwear, injuries, famous dancers and trivia in all genres. The scope, subject matter, details, and ease of reading make this an appealing text for both the informed and uninformed. Layout is bland but the content has appeal in both selection of interesting material and brisk writing style.*

---

Proboz, Kathilyn Solomon. **Alvin Ailey, Jr. (Changing our World Series -- biographies)**. Batam/Skylark 1991.

Grades: 3-4; 5-6

*biography of Alvin Ailey from birth to present day. Focus of author is how Ailey was a change agent for African Americans in the arts. Simple yet accurate facts about modern dance, and also about ballet. A little dance philosophy and history. Significant terms embedded in the text or defined in sidebars. Content interesting but language somewhat stilted.*

---

Roalf, Peggy. **Dancers (Looking at Painting Series)**. Hyperion 1992.

Grades: K-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7+

*Presents 2000 years of art history through a series of paintings of dancers and the dance. The text is more about the painting and artwork than about the subject matter of dance, dancing, and dancers. However, its usefulness as a bridge between art and dance is multifaceted.*

---

Rocklin, Joanne. **Musical Chairs and Dancing Bears**. Henry Holt and Company 1993.



Grades: Pre-S; K-2

*Bears demonstrate simple subtraction and a variety of dances and musical rhythms while playing musical chairs. Dance terminology is simple yet precise. Specific terms appropriate for young children. Sense of accent and dynamics shown in text with bolding. Rhythmic clarity, except for the polka which omitted the upbeat “oom-pa-pa- and...” Otherwise sense of rhythm is accurate.*

---

San Souci, Robert. ***The Red Heels***. Dial 1996.

Grades: 3-4

*An itinerant shoemaker in colonial New England rebuilds a pair of shoes to fit the red heels on the worn ones owned by a beautiful young woman, but he fears the red heels are a sign she is a witch. Dancing is the medium of magic in the book. Implied power of dance is strong; dancing is the only magical component in the story, which focuses on the well-tol relationship of the cobbler and the young woman.*

---

Schick, Eleanor. ***I have another Language the language is dance.*** Macmillan Publishing 1992.

Grades: K-2; 3-4

*A young girl expresses her joy in the act of dancing. One day in her life which includes school, a light dance practice, and their first ever performance that evening. Lovely black-and-white illustrations. Representation of dance more believable on those who really love it, especially at the end of the book—pp. 24-6. “Things I can’t say in words run through my body as I dance. I feel them again in a new way.” Both illustrations and words are particularly captivating in this example.*

---

Schumaker, Ward. ***Dance!***. Harcourt Brace & Co. 1996.

Grades: Pre-S; K-2

*A number of animals demonstrate some of the many different ways to dance, from bumping and romping to swirls and plies. There is a great sense of motion in both the text and illustrations. Accurate dance terminology except for “jump” that is shown as a hop. Carefree and lighthearted nature of this book invites the reader to dance.*

---

Skofield, James. Gundersheimer, Karen (illustrator). ***Nightdances.*** Harper, 1981.

Grades: K-2;3-4                      Dancing, Night, Autumn, stories in rhyme

*A little boy dances with his parents in the autumn night, then back inside to bed. Music and kinesthetic suggestion of the words—the musical sound and the kinesthetic suggestion—may actually tempt the reader to go out at night and dance with the moon. Pictures invite and give new metaphorical perspectives.*

---

Smith, Lucy. James, Kathy (illustrator). ***Dance (An Usborne Guide).*** Usborne, 1987.

Grades: 3-4,5-6

Dance Text, various genre background and instruction

*An obviously British dance-educator approach to preparing dancers. Includes sections on warming up, Graham and Cunningham technique, jazz, tap, rock and roll steps, and professionals in dance. Layout and art appear somewhat dated. One-of-a-kind children's dance text which covers a great variety of topics, some excellently, some outdated. If readers can ignore the visual stiffness, the content is solid and worthwhile.*

---

Soutgate, Martha. **Another Way to Dance.** Delacort, 1996.

Grades: 5-6; 7+                      Afro-Americans; Ballet dancing; Divorce; New York

While spending the summer at the School of American Ballet in New York, fourteen-year-old Vicki Harris must come to terms with the reality of her parents' divorce, her crush on Mikhail Baryshnikov, and the impact of being an African American on her future as a ballet dancer. Some of the most compelling new insight in this otherwise formulaic ballet novel came in the chapters that dealt with the state of mind that precedes eating disorders. Other plusses are that the protagonist is not the best dancer in the school. The book deals with the issue of black dancers in a traditionally white art form.

---

Thatchell, Judy. **The World of Ballet.** Usborne Books, 1994.

Grades: 3-4;5-6; 7+                      Ballet dancing; Ballet history

*A comprehensive overview of the history esthetics, production elements, training, and movers and shakers of ballet. The scope, depth, and breadth are all present as are accuracy and ingenuity of presentation. Despite a wealth of information and illustration, the pages are laid out in a manner that is clear and easy to follow. Both text and presentation respect the reader.*

---

Thomas, Annabel. **Ballet (An Usborne Guide).** Usborne Books, 1986.

Grades: 3-4;5-6; 7+                      Dance Text; Ballet dancing; Ballet history

*A comprehensive and fully illustrated text which provides an overview of ballet for beginners. The content is solid if the reader can get past the dated and somewhat silly illustrations. Similar to but slightly better than the companion volume which deals with several dance forms (DANCE by Lucy Smith).*

---

Thomassie, Tynia. Gilchrist, Jan Spivey (Illustrator). **Mimi's Tutu.** Scholastic Inc., 1996.

Grades: Pre-S; K-2                      African dance; ballet

*Mimi goes to African dance class and is jealous when another girl has the only tutu. The story is about jealousy between dancers. When Mimi gets a traditional African skirt she feels she belongs. Lovely illustrations.*

---

Tompert, Ann. Nolan, Dennis (illustrator). **Savina: The Gypsy Dancer.** Macmillan, 1991.

Grades: 3-4

Gypsies; Dancing

*Savina, a gypsy girl, captivates everyone with her remarkable dancing and arouses the jealousy and hatred of King Walid. She saves the tribe with her dancing skills and becomes a heroine for future generations of her people. Interesting notion of a tyrant who fears the skills of a talented dancer because "Anyone with such control over my people is a danger to my throne." Illustrations haunting; reflecting images of a nomadic people and powerful dancing. Unfortunately the story and dancing disappoint at the end.*

---

Townsend, Alecia Carel. **Mikhail Baryshnikov.** Rourke Publishers, 1993.

Grades: 5-6; 7+

Mikhail Baryshnikov: Ballet dancers

*A biography of the former Soviet ballet star who broadened his career after coming to the United States, becoming a choreographer, actor, and director of the American Ballet Theatre. Appears more like a text, but the writing is lively and useful lists appended; glossary, notes, timeline, first performances; etc.*

---

Trotman Felicity. Leplar Anna (Illustrator). **The Random House Book of Dance Stories.** Random House, 1996.

Grades: 5-6; 7+

*A collection of short stories and folk tales where dance is a focus.*

---

Thyacott, Louise. **Dance (Traditions Around the World Series).** Thompson Learning, 1995.

Grades: 3-4; 5-6

Dance—social aspects of ; Cross-cultural studies; Folk dancing

*An overview of a variety of ethnic and folk dances from many nations. The scope and breadth of dance traditions around the world are excellent. Good overview of both the dancing and culture from which it springs. Glossary appended, largely of words which influenced and are related to cultural dances. Also has a bibliography of further reading.*

---

Vail, Rachel. **Please, Please, Please (Friendship Ring #2).** Scholastic, 1998.

Grades: 5-6

Identity; Mothers and daughters; Ballet; Friendship; Schools

*Twelve-year-old CJ, and accomplished ballet student, struggles with her conflicting desires to continue with ballet studies and please her mother or to quit ballet and finally be like all the other kids in school. This book gives the reader a realistic view of dance; protagonist struggles with the rigors and limitations of ballet and having a broader life. It offers a realistic representation of a stage-crazed mother who never made it in ballet and lives through her daughter's success in dance.*

---

Wallace, Ian. **ChinChinag and the Dragon's Dance.** Atheneum, 1984.

Grades; 3-4

Dancing-fiction; Grandfathers-fiction

*Chin Chiang has long dreamed of dancing the dragon's dance, but when the first day of the year of the Dragon arrives, on which he is to dance with his grandfather, he is sure he will shame his family and bring bad luck to everyone. The dance language is minimal. Pictures are very good at showing the feeling of movement especially when Chin Chiang and Pu Yee dance on the roof top. The book earns merit by showing cultural uniqueness, and how dance plays an important role in the new year celebration.*

---

Water, Kate and Madeline Slovenz-Low. Cooper, Martha (photographer). **Lion Dancer; Ernie Wong's Chinese New Year.** Scholastic, 1990.

Grades: K-2

Folk Dancing; Chinese culture; New year

*This book describes six-year-old Ernie Wong's preparations, at home and in school, for the Chinese New Year celebrations and his first public performance of the lion dance. A solid but not great book about the tradition of the lion dance celebrated on the Chinese New Year. Merit lies mostly in cultural dance connection.*

---

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. Graef, Renee (Illustrator). **Dance at Grandpa's.** Hapercollins, 1932.

Grades K-2; 3-4

Frontier and pioneer life – dancing

*A young pioneer girl and her family attend a wintertime party at her grandparents' house in the Big Woods of Wisconsin. The depiction of dance as an important social event at this time in America is accurate. Illustrations move well.*

---

Yep, Laurence. **Ribbons.** Putman, 1992.

Grades: 5-6; 7+

Chinese Americans; Grandmothers; Ballet; Family life

*Robin, a promising young ballet student, cannot afford to continue lessons when her Chinese grandmother immigrates from Hong Kong, creating jealousy and conflict among the entire family. Although some of the formula characteristics of a ballet novel are present in this story, it addresses less visited issues such as hammer toes (a serious ballet malady), and how motivation dwindles in even the most dedicated dancers. The story and dancing are believable. It introduces other elements and characters in the story. A paradigm shift in the protagonist, which shows her imperfection is unusual for typical ballet fiction.*

---